

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY: Sheila Cogan

DATE: August 11, 2000

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

8/KP
8/23/00

In re: Patent Application of
Ekkehardt Schäfer, et al.

: Group Art Unit 1761

Appln. No: 09/415,285

: Examiner: Sherry A. Dauerman

Filed: October 8, 1999

: Attorney Docket

Title: FOOD CASING

: No. 8934-47U1
(17 680)



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

It is requested that the enclosed reference(s) listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Patent Examiner in connection with the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

The enclosed references were cited in a European Search Report dated January 31, 2000 (copy enclosed) concerning counterpart European Application No. EP 99 11 9413. The following is a translation of the pertinent portions of the European Search Report, namely the searcher's comments regarding each of the prior art references cited:

The first four references listed in the Search Report are cited as category Y (of particular relevance in connection with another publication of the same category) with respect to claims 1-9 of the application. DE 44 17 244 A is cited for the entire document; DE 39 30 834 A is cited for column 3, lines 15-58 and claims 1-8; WO 97/12758 A is cited for claims 1-28; and WO 98/31731 A is cited for page 3, line 4-page 4, line 17; page 15, line 22-page 16, line 11; and claims 1-39. The remaining five

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references are cited as category A (technological background) with respect to claim 1 of the application. DE 197 29 659 A is cited for the entire document; DE 40 01 131 A is cited for column 3, lines 3-36 and claims 1-10; DE 15 04 982 B is cited for column 7, line 14-column 8, line 10 and claims 1 and 2; DE 23 12 385 A is cited for claims 1-23; and WO 97/36798 A is cited for page 7, lines 14-21; page 8, line 3-page 10, line 26; page 12, lines 1-22; page 13, line 28-page 14, line 14; page 17, line 3-page 19, line 25; page 23, line 23-page 24, line 2; and claims 1-19.

The following fees are being paid by:

- Our firm's check enclosed herewith; or
- This authorization to charge our firm's **Deposit Account No. 50-1017 (Billing No. 208934.0056)**.
- In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), the **\$240.00** fee.
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Independent consideration and acknowledgment of the enclosed references are respectfully requested.

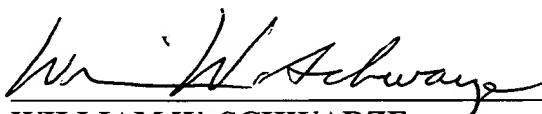
One additional copy of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

EKKEHARDT SCHÄFER, ET AL.

August 11, 2000
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